

CLAIMS

1. A vacuum cleaner comprising:

a removable dust and dirt separation assembly comprising:

a dirty air inlet for dirty air,

a clean air outlet,

an airflow path between the dirty air inlet and the clean air inlet, and

a first separation means and a second separation means disposed in the airflow path, the first separation means separating larger particles of dirt from the dirty air and the second separation means comprising a removable filter element for separating smaller particles of dust from the dirty air;

an air flow conduit having a first end arranged to be connected to the clean air outlet and a second end arranged to be connected to a source of suction; and

an indicator member having a first position when the removable filter element is removed from the vacuum cleaner and a second position when the removable filter element is placed in the vacuum cleaner, wherein the indicator element is readily visible to a user of the vacuum cleaner in at least one of the first and second positions, and the vacuum cleaner is incapable of collecting dust and dirt when the indicator is in the first position.

2. The vacuum cleaner of claim 1, wherein the indicator member is biased to the first position.

3. The vacuum cleaner of claim 2, further comprising a spring member for biasing the indicator member to the first position.

4. The vacuum cleaner of claim 1, wherein the removable dust and dirt separation assembly is arranged to be incapable of being connected to the vacuum cleaner when the indicator member is in the first position.

5. The vacuum cleaner of claim 4, wherein the indicator member is arranged to obstruct the connection of the clean air outlet to the first end of the air flow conduit when the indicator member is in the first position.

6. The vacuum cleaner of claim 5, wherein the clean air outlet includes a receiving formation arranged to receive retaining formations of the first end of the air flow conduit, and the indicator member in the first position is partially located within the receiving formation.

7. The vacuum cleaner according to claim 1, wherein the indicator member includes means for moving the indicator member from the first position to the second position when the filter element is installed into the removable dust and dirt separation assembly.

8. The vacuum cleaner of claim 1, wherein the removable dust and dirt separation assembly further comprises a dirt collection chamber to collect the removable dust and dirt separated by the first separation means.